



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor



Patricia McInturff, Director

City of Seattle 2006 RFP awards for shelter and transitional housing Fact Sheet December 12, 2005

- **The 2006 RFP award letters for shelter and transitional housing were mailed** December 7. The contracts for the second, third and fourth quarters of 2006 will be negotiated by the end of February.
- **Mayor Greg Nickels has committed to no loss in city-funded shelter beds in 2006.**
- **About \$6.2 million is available for shelter and transitional housing in 2006.** The city has extended existing 2005 contracts through the first quarter of 2006 so there is no change in providers or shelter beds through the winter season. There is \$4.67 million in funds for the new nine-month contracts, which will be in effect April 1 through the end of the year. (Plus an additional \$350,000 in city General Fund dollars for shelter, to be issued via a supplemental RFQ.*)
- **Ending homelessness is a top-priority goal for Mayor Nickels.** This RFP is one of the city's first major steps toward implementing the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, endorsed unanimously by the mayor and city council.
- **To implement the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness, the city and its partners will fund programs and projects that move individuals from a homeless system to a housing system.** To the extent possible, this means moving homeless persons out of shelters and into transitional or long-term housing, and providing them with the supportive services they need to stabilize their lives, get healthy, find work, and remain housed permanently. (Mental health, health care, addiction recovery, job training, job searches.)

RFP Award Details

- In all, 19 agencies submitted 42 program proposals requesting \$9.8 million. **Fourteen agencies and 31 programs were funded.**
- **One agency did not meet the minimum threshold requirements and its proposal was not reviewed.** That is SHARE/WHEEL, which declined to participate in Safe Harbors. SHARE/WHEEL currently provides 320 year-round shelter beds.
- **Three agencies new to city funding for shelter and transitional housing submitted successful program proposals in the competitive process.** Family and Adult Services Center, First Place, and Muslim Housing Services will have one project each funded starting April 1, 2006.

- **Two brand new programs proposed by a currently-funded agency (YWCA) will be funded** — Stone Way and Genesee, and Angeline’s Enhanced Shelter.
- **New programs scored very high** on best practices, and on collaborating with other programs to ensure a “continuum of care.”**
- **Four currently funded programs are not receiving funding in 2006** because they didn’t score high enough against the RFP criteria compared with the others. They are programs run by Central Area Motivation Program (CAMP), the Seattle Indian Center, the Church Council of Greater Seattle and the Low-Income Housing Institute.
- **The largest reduction in city funding** to any currently funded agency which will receive funding in 2006 is 11 percent.
- ***The 2006 budget for “enhanced” shelter is \$40,000 more than in 2005.** Once contracts with the 14 agencies are negotiated, the city will determine what the gap is and issue a request for qualifications (RFQ) for those services early in 2006. While shelter bed funding for the last nine months of 2006 was reduced by \$310,000 in the initial RFP, the mayor and the city council have already approved an additional \$350,000 in 2006 to maintain shelter capacity.
- **The city anticipates the same amount of funding for shelter and transitional housing services in 2007.** Contract continuance will be contingent upon availability of funds, success in meeting 2006 performance targets, and ongoing need for services rendered. Over time, as people are housed in long-term housing and moved more quickly out of shelter, the need for shelter beds will diminish.
- **The city will work with those funded agencies whose program outcomes are least consistent with the Ten-Year Plan** to help them modify or improve their model of service. This will minimize destabilizing the existing emergency shelter system while a long-term housing system is developed.

RFP Background

- **This competitive RFP** — developed with extensive community and client input, incorporating best service practices, and reviewed by the city council’s Housing, Human Services and Health Committee — **included funding for:**
 - ✓ “Enhanced” year-round shelter — Short-term accommodation where an assessment guides the individual’s or family’s transition from homelessness to more permanent housing/stability
 - ✓ Severe weather shelter — Provides additional shelter beds on cold, snowy/stormy nights
 - ✓ Voucher program — Provides a homeless individual or family a short-term stay in a hotel or motel during which time a needs assessment and case plan is developed
 - ✓ “Enhanced” transitional housing — Housing with supportive services to help residents make the successful transition to permanent housing (duration 9-24 months)
 - ✓ “Transition-in-place” housing — Housing with supportive services with no deadline for moving. (Client may stay indefinitely.)

- **The RFP supports the Ten-Year Plan by:**
 - ✓ emphasizing funding of programs and practices that research has shown to be effective,
 - ✓ decreasing the investment in emergency vouchers and increasing funding for more comprehensive, long-term strategies such as enhanced shelters and transitional housing,
 - ✓ increasing funding for enhanced transitional housing by 56 percent (\$431,000) and funding for transition-in-place housing by 17 percent (\$106,000), and
 - ✓ having a goal to quadruple the number of households moved into long-term housing (and still there six months later) to 800 per year (from 200 in 2005.)
- **Funding applicants had to meet “minimum threshold” requirements and certain criteria** to get to the review stage. This means they had to:
 - ✓ comply with a set of minimum standards to ensure health and safety,
 - ✓ participate in the Safe Harbors Homelessness Management Information System,***
 - ✓ be willing to be held accountable for/demonstrate clear, measurable and ambitious outcomes (ex: demonstrate how many individuals are moved into long-term housing and do not return to the shelter system),
 - ✓ **identify partners to provide a “continuum of care” — from enhanced shelters to enhanced transitional housing to long-term housing with supportive services, and
 - ✓ provide a full program budget and indicate how much in city funds is desired.
- **A committee of knowledgeable housing and human services representatives reviewed the proposals** and made recommendations to Seattle Human Services Department Director Patricia McInturff.

Other major steps the city is taking toward implementing the Ten-Year Plan

- **The city will continue to dedicate Housing Levy and federal funds to create housing for low-income and homeless persons.** The most recent funding round (spring 2005) will create 171 units that will house homeless persons.
- **The city is funding Connections, a service center** operated by the Downtown Emergency Service Center at The Morrison that will open in 2006. Connections will provide housing, job and other services and referrals in addition to a day center, meals, showers, laundry facilities and computer access. The construction investment is \$2.1 million and annual operating costs will be \$1 million.
- *****The city manages the Safe Harbors Homeless Management Information System.** Safe Harbors is a software application that allows agencies providing shelter, housing and other services to homeless people to collect client and household demographic information. The data are aggregated to help local governments and service providers understand needs and trends and improve efforts to move people from homelessness to long-term housing.
- **The city has invested more than half a million dollars to renovate a floor at City Hall to create a severe weather shelter** where homeless persons can sleep safely on cold, stormy nights. The shelter space, opened Thanksgiving 2005, is operated by the Salvation Army.
- **Mayor Nickels and Councilmember Tom Rasmussen sit on the Committee to End Homelessness Governing Board.** Patricia McInturff, director of the Seattle Human Services Department, co-chairs the committee’s interagency council (www.cehkc.org).